UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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10/769,594	01/30/2004	Ahmed K. Ezzat	200315891-1	8589

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HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
GYORFI, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2135	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 July 2007*.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) *22-25* is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-25 remain for examination. The correspondence filed 7/19/07 amended claims 1, 12, and 17.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed 7/19/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Gong fails to recite every limitation of the claim by arguing that "Gong pertains to portions of code (a.x, b.y, c.z) attempting to access data (/tmp/) **where the portions of code depend on each other for accessing data".** (page 8, of the amendment, lines 3-32, but particularly 30-32; boldface emphasis Examiner's). Interestingly, Applicant quoted col. 11, lines 46-53, which discloses that a.x invokes b.y, which in turn invokes c.z; however, there is no evidence in the prior art to support that a reverse relationship necessarily exists. Indeed, this passage discloses that when a.x invokes b.y, a.x is saved on the stack and remains inactive until b.y finishes its task; similarly, as b.y requires c.z, so b.y is also saved on the stack and waits for c.z to complete its task. Additionally, it is noted that access to any portion of code is permitted when any permission in any protection domain allows for it (col. 12, lines 50-53); in the specific example quoted by Gong, a.x would be able to access "/tmp/temporary" because a.x is a member of protection domain I, which allows for anyone to write to the /tmp directory (col. 13, lines 3-9); thus a.x may access it without regard to b.y or c.z. The reverse is not true, however, as neither b.y nor c.z have explicit permissions on the /tmp directory as they are members of protection domain J,

which only gives permissions to the /share directory (col. 13, lines 10-22). Because the relationship regarding permissions is asymmetric as disclosed above, it therefore still reads on the amended claims.

Claim Objections

3.   The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claims 28, 29, 22, and 23 have been renumbered 22-25 respectively, as was presented in the preliminary amendment filed 2/27/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5.   Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gong (U.S. Patent 6,125,447).

Regarding claims 1, 12, and 17:

Gong discloses a method, computer system and computer readable medium for providing flexible protection by decoupling protection from privilege, comprising:

enabling receipt of information describing two or more types of protection (col. 8 line 40

– col. 9, line 37); enabling receipt of information describing a relationship between said

two or more types of protection and portions of code that are executed in a same

privilege level of the computer system, where said relationship is not required to be

linear (Ibid; and col. 9, lines 40-53); and enabling the association of said information

describing two or more types of protection and said information describing said

relationship with said portions of code (Ibid, and col. 10, lines 57-62) wherein a first

portion of code allowing a second portion of code to access the first portion of code

does not depend on the second portion of code allowing the first portion of code to

access the second portion of code (col. 12, line 40 – col. 13, line 10). Per claim 12,

Gong further discloses a memory unit and processor (col. 4, lines 25-45).

Regarding claims 2, 13, and 18:

Gong further discloses wherein said relationship is user-definable (col. 8, lines

45-63, noting that the ability for a user to set permissions on at least one's home

directory and the contents therein was known in the art).

Regarding claims 3, 14, and 19:   ʳ

Gong further discloses wherein said portions of code are domains and each of

said types of protections is defined in part by at least one or more domain attributes

(col. 9, lines 40-55).

Regarding claims 4 and 20:

Gong further discloses wherein said one or more domain attributes includes a

domain identifier that specifies a unique value for a particular domain (col. 9, lines 5-20).

Regarding claims 5 and 21:

Gong further discloses wherein said one or more domain attributes includes a

Private Key that specifies a unique value that a particular domain must use for

protecting each user that concurrently uses a particular domain (col. 9, lines 5-37).

Regarding claims 6 and 22:

Gong further discloses wherein said one or more domain attributes includes a

SharedCode Key that specifies a value that a particular domain must use to access

code associated with another domain (col. 9, lines 25-37).

Regarding claims 7 and 23:

Gong further discloses wherein said one or more domain attributes includes a

SharedData Key that specifies a value that a particular domain must use to access data

associated with another domain (Ibid).

Regarding claims 8 and 24:

Gong further discloses wherein said one or more domain attributes includes a

AllowOthers Key that specifies a value that a particular domain must use to access

code associated with another domain in conjunction with said particular domain

performing cross-domain switching to said other domain (col. 9, lines 25-37; col. 10,

lines 27-40).

Regarding claims 9 and 25:

Gong further discloses wherein said one or more domain attributes includes a

AccessOthers Key that specifies a value that a particular domain must use to request

access of code associated with a particular domain on behalf of another domain (col. 9,

lines 25-37; col. 10, lines 1-17).

Regarding claims 10 and 15:

Gong discloses a method and computer system for providing flexible protection

by decoupling protection from privilege, comprising: detecting a request from a first

portion of code to access a second portion of code, wherein said first and second

portions of code are executed in a same privilege level of said computer system (col. 9,

lines 54-67; col. 11, lines 40-65); determining whether said first portion of code is

allowed to access said second portion of code based on information describing two or

more types of protection and also based on information describing a relationship

between said two or more types of protection, wherein said relationship is not required

to be linear (col. 8, line 40 – col. 9, line 37); if said relationship specifies that said first

portion of code may access said second portion of code, then allowing said first portion

of code to access said second portion of code (col. 12, lines 54-67); else not allowing

said first portion of code to access said second portion of code (Ibid). Per claim 15,

Gong further discloses a memory unit and processor (col. 4, lines 25-45).

Regarding claims 11 and 16:

Gong further discloses wherein said information describing said two or more

types of protection and said information describing said relationships are associated

with said portions of code and wherein the method further comprises retrieiving said

information describing said two or more types of protection and said information

describing said relationships (col. 12, lines 10-40).

Conclusion

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time
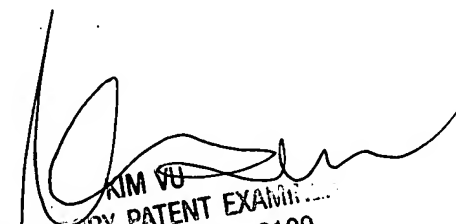
policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Gyorfi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3849. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TAG
9/20/07

KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100